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Providence Independent

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**J. W. ROYER, M. D.,**

Practising Physician,
TRAPPE, Pa. Office at his residence, nearly
opposite Masonic Hall.

M. Y. WEBER, M. D.,

Practising Physician,
EVANSBURG, PA. Office Hours:—Until 9
a. m.; 7 to 9 p. m.

E. A. KRUSEN, M. D.,

Homeopathic Physician,
COLLEGEVILLE, PA. Office Hours:—Until
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S. B. HORNING, M. D.,

Practising Physician,
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Office Hours until 9 a. m.

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Veterinary Surgeon,
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Dentistry and Surgical Operations a Specialty.

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be engaged by the week.

ANNIE M. MILLER,

Dressmaker,
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be engaged by the week. 18Jan3m.

MRS. JANE KALE,

Dressmaker,
PROVIDENCE SQUARE, PA. Will take work
at home, or can be engaged by the week.

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Literary Social.

CONDUCTED BY
FRANCES G. MOSER.

All communications should be addressed to
"Literary Social" in care of the INDEPENDENT
and reach this office not later than Thursday of
each week.

The names of contributors must invariably
accompany all correspondence, not necessarily
for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

[Selected for the Social.]

He Worried About It.

"The sun's heat will give out in ten million
years,
It will surely give out, then, if it doesn't before."
It would surely give out, so the scientists said
In all the scientific books that he read,
And the whole mighty universe then would be
dead ;

And he worried about it.

"And some day the earth will fall into the sun,
Just as sure, and as straight, as if shot from a
gun,
When strong gravitation unbuckle her straps,
Just picture," he said "what a fearful collapse !
It will come in a few million ages, perhaps ;"
And he worried about it.

"The earth will become much too small for the
race,
When we'll pay thirty dollars an inch for pure
space,
The earth will be crowded so much, without
doubt,
That there'll be no room for one's tongue to
stick out,
And no room for one's thoughts to wander
about ;"

And he worried about it.

"The Gulf Stream will curve, and New England
grow torrid,
Then ever the climate of southernmost Florida,
The ice crops will be knocked into small smith-
ereens,
And crocodiles block up our moving machines,
And we'll lose our fine crop of potatoes and
beans ;"

And he worried about it.

"And in less than ten thousand years, there's
no doubt,
Our supply of lumber and coal will give out,
Just then the Ice Age will return cold and raw,
Frozen men will stand stiff with arms out-
stretched in awe,
As if vainly beseeching a general thaw ;"

And he worried about it.

His wife took to washing (a dollar a day),
His daughter sewed shirts, the rude grocer to
pay,
While his wife beat her tireless rub-a-dub dub
On the washboard drum in her old wooden tub,
He sat by the stove and he just let her rub ;
He didn't worry about that.

Here are two questions for the
Social to answer.

1. What had been the result, if
Socrates and Plato had never met ?

2. Who is the author of the ex-
pression, "God tempers the wind to
the shorn lamb?" X. Y. Z.

Historic Ground.

One afternoon, lately, when return-
ing from Philadelphia to Collegeville,
I was lulled to drowsiness by the mo-
tion of the railroad train as it sped on
the iron track in the curves of its swift
career. I awakened when the train
slackened its speed somewhat sudden-
ly and the words "Valley Forge" were
called out. I saw from the window
all the dreariness of winter over field
and river. Snowy landscapes were
not radiant with the glitter of sunlight
but a dull, gray sky, a chilling atmos-
phere left all without a charm.

Hearing a passenger remark, "His-
toric ground," as he waved his hand
toward the hills on the right, a famil-

iar paragraph of history was called to
mind. "On the 11th of Dec. 1877
Washington marched to winter quar-
ters at Valley Forge. Thousands of
the soldiers were without shoes and
the frozen ground was marked with
bloody foot-prints. It was a long and
dreary winter ; moaning and anguish
were heard in the camp and the echo
fell heavily on the soul of the com-
mander. These were the darkest days
of Washington's life." This some-
what familiar locality had never before
suggested so vividly the scenes of
wretchedness and privation. Viewed
in the light of that dismal afternoon it
was easy to imagine the gloom that
must have filled those brave hearted
patriots who endured with fortitude
the miseries of that encampment. How
intense the devotion that kept alive a
spark of hope.

This incident of the revolution will
be studied by many of us in the future
with more attention to detail for by it
this spot of our country has become
sacred soil. Since the Valley Forge
Commission has filed a report and the
Valley Forge Park is carefully out-
lined and is to become a reality I hope
that in the reasonably near future the
plans may be executed which promise
so much for the perpetuation of histo-
ric landmarks.

In the vast field of history we may
be apt to linger over the names of real
or traditional heroes of other lands.
We may be filled with a desire to visit
ancient and historic grounds. Per-
haps when some stranger shows an in-
terest in the historic associations of
our vicinity we may be able to give
vague information in regard to the ex-
istence of ancient marble at Trappe
carved with the name of Muhlenberg
or we may even mention Valley Forge.

But how few have a perfect acquaint-
ance with this historic lore !
It is not only the trials of a siege of
camp life that may invest a locality
with historic interest. Around an
ancient church or an institution of
learning may cluster memories of no-
ble lives and of struggles and tri-
umphs.

When Valley Forge Park, as at
present projected, shall have its broad
avenues and driveways finished,
when the camps of Colonial States
shall have been marked, when each
entrenchment and redoubt shall have
been restored, then a memorial tower
upon Mount Joy shall look upon a
land where the fervor of our patriotism
shall be an eternal fire. R.
Collegeville, Dec. 27, 1894.

THE CROFTSTON ROBBERY.

BY ARCHIE R. EGGLERSON.

One day the Croftston Express con-
tained the following notice: "Last
evening a double robbery was com-
mitted by which the jewelry store of
Augustus Moody suffered a loss of
\$30,000. Mr. Moody was confined to
his house by a slight illness, and his
clerk, Walter Moore, who is his
sister's son, was in charge of the store.
About eight o'clock a green-looking
fellow dressed in farmer's clothes
entered, and called for an engagement
ring for his sweetheart. He questioned
Moody about the value of nearly
every piece of jewelry he could see,
hesitated and haggled about the price,
and finally bought an article of fair
quality and went away. Shortly after
this Moody went to the back part of
the store on some trifling errand, and
while there heard a crash in front.
Rushing forward he saw that a brick
had been thrown through the plate
glass, and a pair of hands were just
disappearing through the opening to-
gether with a tray of valuable
diamonds. He rushed out in hot pur-
suit of the thief, and had reached the
corner of Elm and Chatham streets
before he realized that he was leaving
the store unattended. He turned about
and hurried back. His consternation
may be imagined when, as he neared
the door, he saw his country customer
coming out of it with a good-sized
leather bag in his hand and saw, too,
that a handsome black horse stood
pawing the curbstone. He shouted to
the man to stop but he sprang into the
saddle, shook the reins, and the horse
galloped away. Moody gave immediate
alarm, and went into the building to
find that, while he was chasing the
first thief, a second had swept nearly
everything of value from the gem
show case. Both citizens and officers
turned out to chase the robbers, but
scoured the town and surrounding
country in vain. Mr. Moody feels his
loss keenly, and young Moore is
inconsolable. A detective has been
summoned from Chicago to look into
the affair."

"This was the public account of the
robbery, but dark surmises were in
confidential circulation and the tide
accumulated till the burden of suspicion
founded a resting place on the
shoulders of Walter Moore. The
story so plausibly told was lacking in
confirmation. No one had seen the
strangers enter the store, and as for

the black horse galloping wildly
through the streets, this was an every-
day occurrence and counted for
nothing.

People began to reflect upon the
faults of young Moore, and his ex-
travagance in gloves, neckties and
cigars became plainly apparent. Whis-
pers of champagne and the gambling
table were in order, and after two
weeks of beating about the bush, when
the detective, in a private interview
with Mr. Moody, expressed fears that
his nephew was accessory to if not
the principal in the crime, the uncle
became alarmed, and the outcome was
the arrest of the unfortunate young
man.

It was true that Walter was fond
of cards, and that he played for
money. Three hundred dollars were
found in his possession, which sum he
declared was his winnings. A careful
search failed to bring to light any
trace of the gems, or a communication
with an accomplice who could have
taken care of them. However, cir-
cumstantial evidence was shown in so
strong a light that he was placed under
heavy bonds for an appearance at
court, and being unable to procure
bail, was committed to jail.

Fifty miles from Croftston, in the
little city of Pixley, a pretty, brown-
eyed girl, Edna Whitley, occupied the
telegraph office in company with the
regular operator, her father, who was
in ill health, and often needed a relief
from close attendance on the wires.

Edna had attended school with
Walter Moore, and an attachment be-
tween the two had culminated in a
marriage engagement. When the
news of Walter's arrest reached her,
the girl was overwhelmed with grief
and humiliation, but with a woman's
loyalty she held firm in her belief in
his entire innocence, and immediately
sought the detective who had been
employed by Mr. Moody, subjecting
him to a rigid examination regarding
the basis of his suspicion.

The worthy gentleman was very
suave in his manners and listened to
her with great courtesy, giving his
answers in a guarded way, while he
studied her face through his half-closed
eyelids.

The result of this interview was
that the girl lost confidence in him
entirely, and went from his presence
to the office of a lawyer, James Crum,
where she told her story, and pleaded
the innocence of her lover with an
eloquence that touched his heart,
despite the overwhelming tide of
public opinion that had rolled up
against the unfortunate young man.

"I will do all I can for Mr. Moore,"
said he with energy. "Something may
be ferreted out that will bring new
developments in the case. I must
confess that detective work, as it is
frequently carried out, is very erratic.
When a man gets hold of a theory he
is apt to shape everything about him
to agree with it, and it's strange how
circumstances can sometimes be per-
verted to give innocence a guilty
color."

"You are very kind," said Edna,
and the two shook hands and parted
as if they had been friends of a long
standing.

The meeting between Walter and
Edna was a painful one, and the young
man reproached himself severely for
his reckless, extravagant habits.

"If I had not chosen fast company,
Edna, and been addicted to gambling,
my chances would be better," said he.

"For though I have never touched a
cent of my uncle's money, or been
guilty of a dishonest act in his busi-
ness, I have spent my own earnings at
games of chance, and have won many
a dollar from others for which I have
given no equivalent. I am being
severely punished for my faults."

"Unjustly punished," said Edna,
with quivering lips. But you shall
not be condemned without strong
efforts to clear you. And if you are
acquitted you will promise me that,
Walter ?

"I promise," he replied, sadly ; "but
I have little hope of proving myself
innocent. Those rogues were far too
clever to be caught."

"Give me a description of the country
fellow who bought the ring."

"Rather stout, with a great mass of
flaxen hair and a smooth face. I
noticed nothing particular about him
except a mole on the cheek."

"Right or left ?"

"Left," returned Walter, after a mo-
ment's consideration, "and he had a
small hand and a foot for a farmer."

Edna scribbled a few lines on a
card, and looking over her shoulder,
Walter read, "Stout man, with small
hands and feet, flaxen hair, and a mole
on left cheek."

"How old was he ?" she asked.

"Twenty-five, I should say."

She added this to her description,
and placed the card in her hand-bag.

"I must go now, Walter," she said
hurriedly. "Keep up a brave heart,
and remember that I am working for
you. Something tells me I shall save
you."

The train was nearly due, and she

had not time to go back to Crum's
office ; but that night she wrote a
letter to the lawyer, inclosing the
card.

"Look sharp for the man with a
mole on the left cheek, even if he has
lost the air of a farmer," was her in-
junction.

A week later, as the lawyer was
waiting in the depot for a train, a man
came in with a square box under his
arm and inquired for the express
agent. He was dressed in blue denim
trousers and frock, and wore a broad-
brimmed straw hat tilted sideways on
his head, which a quantity of flaxen
hair bristled like hay. His voice was
swept up to an imitation of the Yan-
kee dialect, and was so shrill that it
struck Crum at once as an exaggera-
tion.

"I want to send this here parcel
down to Pixley," he drawled, as the
express agent came forward. "An' I
want it marked 'handle with keer,'
cause it's a tarnation resky parcel."

"What's in it ?" the agent inquired.

"Snakes !" was the prompt reply,
and the box was turned about so that
its glass front faced the man. "Regu-
lar rattlesnakes, captured from the hill
where they rustle round in their nat-
ural pizen wilderness !"

"How many are there in the box ?"
the agent said, as he lowered his cigar
and looked in at the squirming rep-
tiles. "And where are you going to
send them ?"

"Jest three an' they're bound fer
that old man Healey, a gray-headed
naturalist livin' at Pixley. I've sent
him jest tons of snakes an' lizards, an'
bipeds durin' the last five years. He's
a curious critter, dotes on 'em an'
makes collections of 'em. He pays
well, tew, an' that makes it more in-
teresting fur me." Here the Yankee
looked about him as if expecting ap-
proval, and as he turned his head
Crum gave a start. There was a mole
on the fellow's left cheek.

A crowd was gathering around the
queer-looking box with mingled ex-
pressions of curiosity and aversion
and Crum walked out on the platform,
where he was overjoyed to see a
shrewd, trustworthy boy of his ac-
quaintance.

He slipped a silver dollar in his hand
and said, hurriedly :

"Jimmie, I want you to watch that
smooth-faced fellow with the blue suit
and wide-brimmed hat, who is ship-
ping those rattlesnakes. I am obliged
to go away on this train, or I would
do it myself. Keep him in view, see
which way he goes, and follow him if
you can, but don't let him know it. I
shall return to-night."

"All right," said Jimmie, confident-
ly.

Crum went back. The nasal tone
of the countryman was still lingering
in the ears of his listeners.

"I ketch 'em with chloroform," he
said tapping the glass with his fingers.
"There's quite a knack about it, but
when a feller gits ten dollars apiece
fur the reptiles, it 'pears tew pay bet-
ter than raisin' peach-blow pertaters."

"How does the Pixley man get his
money out of them ?" inquired one of
the by-standers.

"Dunno," answered the man in blue.

"Egspet he ships them tew some mus-
cum or mebbe oddicates 'em fur cir-
cuses. What he does with 'em ain't
my bread and butter, after I'm paid
fur the raw material."

"What is the name of the party at
Pixley ?" the agent called out with his
pen suspended over the card.

"Healey—John Healey."

"And the sender ?"

"Why, that's me—John Henry
Jenks."

The rumble of the approaching
train broke up the circle, and its
separate parts rushed to the door.
Crum among the rest. But looking
back from the car steps, he saw Jim-
mie watching "John Henry" with a
nonchalant air that meant business,
and he wrote a note to Edna Whitley,
calling her attention to the snakes
that would arrive in Pixley that night,
and making inquiries concerning
Healey's reputation.

At 4 o'clock this letter reached
Edna, and the box of snakes came into
the office at the same time. Her
father handled it with great caution,
and expressed a wish to have it re-
moved from the depot as soon as
possible.

"If the glass should get broken or
anything happen to the box, we should
have the reptiles out here among us,"
he said.

"Where does John Healey live,
papa ?" asked Edna, thoughtfully.

"On the river road, about three
miles out of town, in a square stone
house overgrown with ivy and shut in
with oak blinds. He is a sort of
recluse, and does not hold much inter-
course with any one, but lives among
his beasts and birds and reptiles."

"I believe I will ride out and tell
him the package is here, if you can
spare me from the office."

"You cannot take the pony ; he
cast a shoe yesterday, and is quite
lame."

The train was nearly due, and she

"I had not thought of the pony at
all, papa. People do not need horses
if they are fortunate enough to possess
a bicycle."

"I see," he said, smiling. "But is it
not too long a trip for you on the
wheel ?"

"It will be just capital exercise,"
Edna replied ; and in an excited frame
of mind she made her preparations,
and was soon spinning over the high-
way toward the old stone house.

It was a gloomy looking dwelling,
surrounded by evergreens and half
hidden by its mantle of ivy ; the gate
was rusty in latch and hinges, and
testified of paint ; the path was a
travelling track through a wilderness
of unshorn orchard grass, and stems
of plantain were thickly bedded about
the door.

Edna dismounted, but before she
could enter the yard a bent and gray-
haired old man appeared from a cluster
of shrubs and came slowly toward
her.

ABOUT every soft coal section in the State is having its turn at wage reduction, the latest being Tioga county, where the miners have decided to strike. This is unfortunate, and especially so in view of the fact that these were the miners warned before election day against the terrible effects of supporting tariff reform and ignoring protection. The miners listened to the political voice in the wilderness and voted nearly solid to retain the government tariff bounty of seventy-five cents a ton to the operators, and now see their mistake. While the operators get about everything they have been pared down to something below living wages, and how much worse a strike will make their condition, the future alone can tell. But the consolation of saving the tariff is theirs.

This question of good roads will not be thrust aside in every rural district. It is only a matter of a few years to come when some system or other of permanent road building will be generally adopted. The taxpayers of Abington, this county, have already expended one hundred thousand dollars for macadam roads with very satisfactory results. Land is steadily rising in value there while in communities where mud roads prevail land values are tending the other way. Other adjacent townships are looking on and the disposition to do as the taxpayers of Abington have done is spreading. The citizens of Moreland will vote at the February election on the question of a loan of \$60,000 for road improvement and there is very little doubt that the proposition will be carried.

The last report of Attorney General Hensel has been presented to Governor Pattison. It is the model paper of a model public official—a most capable and untiring servant of the people. The report contains the statement that the entire loss of the Commonwealth occasioned by Bardsley's delinquencies will be realized in full. An interesting feature of Mr. Hensel's record is the marvelous growth of legal business it presents. The largest amount of legal cases submitted to any of the Attorney Generals of the previous three administrations, were more than doubled during the last two years, as are summarized in this report, and the enormous sum of \$2,807,445.14 collected by the Attorney General during the four years of his term, is entirely unexampled or even unapproached in the history of all his predecessors.

According to the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy, the interest in the naval affairs has been greatly quickened by the war between China and Japan. The recent Brazilian and Bluefields incidents have shown that the respect due to the United States as a nation is largely dependent upon the presence of American war ships in foreign ports. The estimates for the current fiscal year were \$27,885,914 and the actual appropriations amounted to \$25,366,826. The estimates for the year beginning July 1, 1895, are \$30,952,020. The two types of vessels most urgently need are battle ships and torpedo boats. The secretary recommends the construction of three battle ships of 10,000 tons displacement, the cost not to exceed \$4,000,000 each, and twelve torpedo boats varying from 100 to 300 tons displacement, the average cost to be \$170,000.

ANOTHER year has sped away. It has departed forever; only the memories of its successes and failures, its realized hopes and shattered anticipations, its joys and sorrows, will live in the minds of men. The work is finished; it is too late to undo the bad done, to make amends for errors committed, or to increase the totality of worthy deeds now on record. The last page has been filled and the book closed and sealed; as well may we attempt to halt the movements of the planets or change the earth's orbit as to attempt to open that book, for endless time moves only in one direction—forward. If the experiences we have had during 1894 can be made profitable to us during 1895, 'twill be well indeed; if we can do more of good and less of evil, if we can scatter about us more of sunshine than of gloom, more of kindness than of unkindness in 1895 than is placed to our credit in the book that is sealed, 'twill be better still. The duties, the responsibilities of 1895 will meet us each succeeding day; they cannot be manfully escaped; let us all therefore accept and fulfill them.

THE Pennsylvania Legislature of 1895 convened at Harrisburg Tuesday. At no time during the existence of the present great political parties has the majority been so excessively with the dominant party of the State. In the Senate, composed of 50 members, the Republicans have 43 and the Democrats 7, and in the House the Republicans have 175 to 29 Democrats. In less than two weeks the Republican Governor will be inaugurated, and then every department of State authority will be in the control of that party. It will follow, of course, that the entire administration of State affairs for the next four years will be the

measure of the responsible duty resting upon the Republicans. Great triumphs are frequently succeeded by great disasters, and if the intoxication of unprecedented success as exemplified by abnormal majorities in both the House and Senate is not in due time succeeded by a sober sense of stern duty and the performance of it, another Democrat may be elected Governor four years hence. It is expected that much important legislation will be presented to the present Legislature. The Republicans of Pennsylvania can maintain abiding success by meriting it, and the Legislature of 1895 may serve as a very fair criterion.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1894.—Senatorial statements concerning what Congress would do with the Currency bill when it resumed business have followed each other thick and fast this week, and although many of them were so wildly improbable that they are not worth mentioning, others had a foundation based upon truth. Among the last was the statement that the democrats were so equally divided on the bill that the republicans of the House would have the power of deciding whether the bill should be passed or defeated. This sounded quite improbable when it was first made, but when it was publicly reiterated by Judge Culbertson, of Texas, a member of the House committee on Banking and Currency, it took on a different aspect. Judge Culbertson said: "I believe that the republicans have it in their power to pass or defeat the bill, and I have no idea that they will help to pass it." Another statement that is true is, that democrats opposed to the bill are trying to get votes enough pledged to defeat it in the democratic caucus that is to be held next week. If they succeed, there will probably be no caucus.

If it becomes necessary in order to prevent the outright defeat of the currency bill, without a vote in the House, to abandon the proposed House democratic caucus it is believed to be the intention of the administration to attempt to duplicate the tactics adopted last year to pass the silver repeal bill through the Senate. That is, to seek a combination between the republicans and the administration men. In order to test the sentiment of the republicans in the House some of them have been asked by friends of the administration whether they would support the currency section, to which the republicans are unalterably opposed, were dropped.

Mr. Matthew Griffin, owner of an influential New York financial paper is visiting Washington. He doesn't take a bright view of the business outlook for 1895. He said: "There is absolutely no ground for believing that there will be any great improvement in business for the next six months. A great many people pin their faith to a change in the currency laws. I don't believe the adoption of a new monetary system would mend matters a particle. Europe is poor, is in want of money and unloads her American securities upon us, so as to draw on us continuously for gold. Our farmers are getting nothing for their products, and our railroads are not earning any money. What Congress can do to relieve this state of things is past my comprehension. All we can do is to wait and hope." That Congress could do much is certain, but that it will do nothing appears to be equally certain to the minds of many of its members. For instance, Representatives Walker, of Mass., who claims to have been the first to suggest the idea of extending the currency of national banks which is a part of the Carlisle currency bill, thinks things are practically in a dead lock. He says: "Financial legislation at this session of Congress is impossible under present conditions, the whole question being so strangely muddled by the administration, which does not seem to have any conception of what legislation is necessary to compose the finances of the country and especially to relieve the Treasury from the constant demands for gold."

Chairman Springer, who is in charge of the Currency bill, has served notice upon Mr. Bland that when he attempts to offer his bill for the issue of coin and coin notes by the government as a substitute for the Carlisle currency bill he intends to raise a point of order against it, on the ground that it is germane to the question that will be under consideration, and from another source Mr. Bland has learned that the program is all arranged to have that point of order sustained and his bill thrown out. There is likely to be a hard fight on this question, as every democratic member of the House who believes in the free coinage of silver will have to choose between supporting Mr. Bland's bill and reversing himself.

The story of a serious revolution in Hawaii, which was telegraphed from San Francisco this week, found few believers in Washington, and is thought to have no better foundation than the story of the arrest of a few royal conspirators, particulars of which came by a steamer that left everything quiet on the Islands a week after those arrests.

It is said that several parties composed of members of the House who are opposed to the Nicaragua Canal bill are enjoying holiday pleasure trips at the expense of the canal lobby. Of course a little thing like that isn't likely to change any votes.

\$300 Burned in a Stove Pipe.

EASTON, December 28.—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bartholomew, of Moorestown, this county, had a very expensive Christmas party at their house last night. They invited many of their friends to spend the evening with them, and a fire was lighted in the parlor stove by one of the family. When Mrs. Bartholomew saw the fire in the stove she screamed and fainted. Being revived she then announced that a few days before she had placed for safekeeping in the stove pipe \$300, which she had received as an inheritance. The money was totally destroyed.

A Brilliant Scheme.

From The Troy Times.
A brilliant scheme was adopted the other day by a theatrical company which found itself stranded at Dayton, Ohio, and its next engagement at Cleveland. A plan was made for the arrest of one of the members of the company on the charge of opening a letter belonging to another member. The accused was taken before the United States Commissioner at Cleveland, where the other members of the company were subpoenaed as witnesses. They, of course, secured his acquittal, and also their fees, amounting to \$6.25 apiece. It was the most profitable engagement they have played this season, but the commissioner is willing to bet that they can't play it on him again.

What the New Year Brings.

From The Philadelphia Times.
Vacant chairs.
Good wishes without number.
Change, but not always silver.
January—and all the others.
Mistake—we date our letters wrong.
Friends grown older and a few joyless.
Bills of every description, but every one too large.
Improvements that cause wonder and questionings.
Dividends without variety, all shrunk like old flannels.
"The new face at the door, the new boots on the floor."
New friends? Yes, and worthy ones, too. How have we existed without them?

DAMAGE TO THE ORANGE CROP.

LATER REPORTS FROM FLORIDA INDICATE THAT THE LOSS TO FRUIT GROWERS WILL BE HEAVY.
JACKSONVILLE, Florida, December 30.—To-day's reports from the orange and other fruit districts are still more discouraging. The principal crop of the east coast is practically ruined, and last night's cold caused further damage to oranges and orange trees. A prominent transportation man placed the total losses at \$3,000,000, of which about \$600,000 are in freights. The direct and incidental losses will foot up fully \$5,000,000, for next year's crop of oranges will be a million boxes short. Several thousand men employed in picking and packing oranges are thrown out of work. At 8 o'clock to-night the mercury is at 42 degrees above zero, with an official prediction that it will not touch freezing point before morning.

A New Use of Compressed Air.

A novel use of compressed air has recently been made by some Western railroads. Jets of air discharged from flexible hoses are made to do the work of brooms, whisks and cloths in removing dust and cinders in passenger cars. The hose may readily be carried to any part of the car and is used in the same manner as an ordinary hose carrying water. The new application has many advantages. In many cases passenger cars on reaching the terminals are only allowed to stand a few minutes before being again filled with passengers, and it is impossible in this time to clean or even dust them thoroughly. This work is usually done by women, who hastily brush off the upholstered parts and wipe the woodwork. A stream of air will effectively remove all the dust and dirt from cloth even from glass and wood, and it has the additional advantage of reaching cracks and crevices which otherwise would not be touched. The stream of air is especially effective, it is said, in clearing the cars of flies.

If There Were No "It's."

From The New York Recorder.
If Texas were a circular lake and France a circular island in it, it would be out of sight of the shore all the way round.
If the Dead Sea alone loses 1,000,000 tons of water per day by evaporation in midsummer, the entire ocean in one year would—oh, any one figure that out.
If in a battle 700 bullets are fired for every man wounded, and 4,200 for every man killed, how many bullets did it take to chase the Chinese out of Korea?
If a toad can live in a block of petrified wood a few centuries without food, how long could he survive a course of afternoon teas?
If Prince Bismarck's 483 crosses the whole question being so strangely muddled by the administration, which does not seem to have any conception of what legislation is necessary to compose the finances of the country and especially to relieve the Treasury from the constant demands for gold."

AWFUL RAVAGES OF DIPHTHERIA IN A FAMILY.

THE DISEASE SPREAD BY PUBLIC FUNERALS.
READING, Pa., December 31.—The family of Jacob K. Leavan, of Oley township, this county, has received an awful visitation from diphtheria. A week ago the family consisted of himself, wife and ten children, all healthy and happy. Now five are dead, husband and wife and four children are down with the disease, and the only member to be about is a daughter 14 years of age. During last night two of the children died, Lot, aged 10 years, and Lizzie, the youngest, aged two years. There are now four lying dead in the same house, Paul M., the youngest son aged five, died yesterday at 8.30 a. m., and Charles M., the eldest son, about 11 a. m., of the same disease, yesterday. The funeral of Ada, the six-year-old daughter, was held from the residence of the parents on Saturday. Of the Leavan family only one was able to attend the burial. Rev. I. S. Stair officiated. Widespread sympathy has been expressed for the family. Mr. Leavan is a prominent citizen of Oley, owns a large farm, but has his residence in the village of Friedensburg. He is widely esteemed and belongs to one of the oldest families in the county. Diphtheria has been prevalent in Friedensburg some weeks, and so far ten deaths have occurred. The funerals of some of the previous victims of the disease have been largely attended. Last week there was a funeral at which there was a crowded church, and it is feared that this is what caused the spread of this deadly disease. The village school has not been closed, and this laxity in quarantining disease of this nature has elicited a widespread demand for township boards of health. Information received here is to the effect that two of the Leavan children are in a very critical condition.

Life's Contrasts.
Perfume of roses and warbling of birds,
Sweetest of a west June days,
Kindliest glances and tenderest words,
Shadiest woodland ways;
Murmuring brooklets and whispering trees,
Drowsiest-song of the soft humming bee;
Hope, Love, trust, peace
And besides—
I and he, he and I.
Wintry winds rustling the fallen, dead leaves,
Sullen and lowering the day,
Creeping mists hiding sad earth as she grieves,
Mourning for days gone by;
Catastrophe foaming 'neath bare, leafless trees,
Chilly blasts sweeping o'er lone, barren leas,
Heartache, doubts, tears,
And besides—
I alone, only I.
—Temple Bar.

A Family Overcome by Coal Gas.

DOYLESTOWN, Pa., December 31.—Four members of the family of Mrs. Edwin Stout, of Quakertown, this county, were overcome by coal gas which escaped from a stove, this morning. A 2-year-old child died a few hours later and the others were revived with great difficulty.

Sudden Fainting Spells.
Epileptic Convulsions, or Fits, and all nervous diseases, as Paralysis, Locomotor Ataxia, Epilepsy, or Fits, St. Vitus's Dance, Sleeplessness, Nervous Prostration, Nervous Debility, Neuralgia, Melancholia, Threatened Insanity, and Kindred ailments, are treated as a specialty, with great success, by the Staff of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. Many are cured at a distance without personal consultation—the necessary medicines being sent by mail or express. Question blanks sent on application.
For Pamphlet, References, and Particulars, enclose 10 cents in stamps for postage.
Address, WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Buffalo, N. Y.

You can't tell the quality of a pump by the way it's painted—you can tell by the way it's marked. If the stencil says it's

THE BLATCHLEY PUMP
it's a positive sign of perfection—in material, in construction, in every detail. If you want the best pump, and of course you do, you must get a BLATCHLEY. See the dealer about it.

C. G. BLATCHLEY, Mfr.,
35 N. Juniper Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
Opposite Broad St. Station, P. R. R.

BARGAINS

—AT—

FENTON'S

—IN—

DRY GOODS!

1000 Yards Appleton A. Muslin, 1 yard wide, 7c. yard.
1 Case Simpson's Calicoes, in Remnants, 4c. yard. Best Quality Gingham, 4 Yards for 25c.

Fast Turkey Red Table Linen, 29c.

All-Wool White Flannel, only 30c. yard.

Beautiful Patterns, White Apron Plaids, 10 and 12 1/2c. yard.

Shirting Calicoes, all styles, 5c. yard.

Feather Bed Ticking, 15c. yard.

Outing Flannels, 8 and 10c. yard.

Nearly All-Wool Cassimeres, 40c. yard.

Ready-Made Pants, \$1 to \$3.

Shoe Department is Complete

Ladies' Shoes, Light and Heavy, from \$1 up.

Children's School Shoes, 50c. up. Men's Fine Calfskin Shoes, \$2.25, reduced from \$3.00. Men's Working Shoes, very good, \$1.25. FULL LINE OF RUBBERS AND GUM BOOTS.

Demorest Sewing Machine, in Antique Oak, with all attachments and guaranteed for 5 years, 19.50.

CHOICE -- GROCERIES!

The finest Rock Candy Syrup, 50c. gal. Try a sample of our 35c. gal. Table Syrup. A good Baking Syrup, 25c. gal. Choice Rio Coffee, 25c. lb. Old Government Java Coffee, 25c. lb. 4 Cans Corn, 25c. Early June Peas, 10c. can. California Prunes, 10c. lb. Evaporated Peaches, 2 lbs. for 25c. 2 large Fat Mackerels for 25c. Heavy Fowlery Wire, all widths; special prices by the roll. 1 lb. Chewing Tobacco, 25c.

W. P. FENTON,

212 COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

Keystone Dry Goods Store.

—WE HAVE THIS DAY—

MADE

NEW PRICES

—ON MOST OF OUR—

DRESS GOODS.

We Never Made in Over 40 Years Business

A Reduction Anything Like It.

And hope never to do so again.

We now name the prices.

All-Wool French Goods, reduced from 87c. to 47c.

All-Wool French Goods, reduced from 50 to 37c.

All-Wool American Goods, reduced from 40c. to 29c.

Part Cotton Goods, reduced from 25c. to 19c.

Part Cotton Goods, reduced from 16c. to 12 1/2c.

Wide Part Wool Goods, last year, reduced from 25c. to 12 1/2c.

We have a good assortment of

NEWEST STYLE COATS!

We have also added to our Bargain Counter at the back part of the store New Goods. Come early to the

Keystone Dry Goods Store,

Opp. Public Square, Norristown.

MORGAN WRIGHT,

213 and 215 DeKalb St.

FOR SALE.

A good heater, heater pipe and a lot of good stove pipe, will be sold cheap. Apply to A. K. HUNTSICKER, Collegeville, Pa.

If you have anything to sell, advertise it in the Independent.

-FOR BARGAINS-

—GO TO—

Beaver & Shellenberger's.

—O—

Appleton A. Muslin, 1 yd. wide, Bleached, 7c. per yard.

A Good Muslin, 1 yd. wide, Bleached, 6c. per yd.

Best Quality Gingham, at 6c. per yard.

Simpson's Calicoes in Remnants.

Outing Flannels at 8 and 10c.

All-Wool Cassimeres, at 55c.

Canton Flannels, at 5c. and upwards.

Bed Blankets from 75c. up to \$5.50.

—O—

Chase's Lap Robes and 5 A Horse Blankets.

—O—

A FULL LINE OF SHOES.

Freed's Make of Boots & Shoes.

RUBBER SHOES -- AND -- GUM BOOTS.

—O—

New California Raisins at 6 cents per pound.

7 lbs. Rolled Oats, at 25c.

Floor and Table Oil Cloths.

6 Bars of Good Soap, at 25c.

The Best Table Syrup at 40c.

A Good Baking Syrup, at 25c.

And everything in Groceries and Dried Fruits at

-Rock Bottom Prices.-

—O—

Beaver & Shellenberger

TRAPPE, PA.

—O—

JAPANESE

Are Great Jugglers.

THAT'S where we differ; it does not need any juggling to sell our ready made clothing in Suits, Overcoats and Pants for large or small folks.

NEITHER does it take any Sleight-of-Hand to sell our Fine Underwear, Hats, Caps, or the Nobby Neckwear you will find here.

OUR Knit Jackets, Gloves, Gum Coats, Umbrellas, Overalls; in fact anything kept in a first-class Clothing and Furnishing Goods Store you will find at

J. H. YOUNG'S

—SQUARE - DEALER,--

101 Main Street, Spring City.

—O—

NEW CONDITIONS IN

THE CARPET TRADE

—HAVE MADE—

NEW PRICES

—FOR—

CARPETS

—AT—

BRENDLINGER'S!

—O—

The general uncertainty in trade at the time we bought our

Fall Supply of CARPETS

Gave us the choicest selections of a wide market at prices which we pass along to you to give you greater card value for money and quality than has heretofore been possible. For instance:

INGRAINS at 25, 35, 40, 45, 50c. and up.

TAPESTRIES at 50, 60, 65, 75c. and up.

BODY BRUSSELS at 87 1/2c., \$1.00 and up.

MOQUETTES, AXMINSTERS,

VELVETS,

Must be seen to show how much goes into our present carpet values because the beautiful patterns selected from the best makers have made a combination of beauty and quality that make price figures unusually interesting.

The range of stock is well enough to cover pretty patterns with borders and without, for rooms of all kinds, halls and stairs.

Art Squares, Rugs,

Oil Cloth,

Linoleums.

Especially attractive to the economical housekeeper is the

REMNANT STOCK

AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

Bring along the measurements of your rooms and perhaps you can find enough to cover a floor in these remnants. If you do, great saving will be yours.

We invite your visit. We feel sure we can make it a profitable saving to you.

I. H. Brendlinger,

NORRISTOWN, PA.

—LEADING DEALER IN—

Dry Goods, Books,

Carpets, Trimmings,

and Coats.

213 and 215 DeKalb St.

—O—

FOR SALE.

A good heater, heater pipe and a lot of good stove pipe, will be sold cheap. Apply to A. K. HUNTSICKER, Collegeville, Pa.

If you have anything to sell, advertise it in the Independent.

The Big Holiday Stock IS COMING IN FAST!

Now is the time and here is your chance. I am offering them at prices that will make them jump. The LATEST DESIGNS and NICEST GOODS in

Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, Silverware, Novelties, Etc.

Never have such goods been shown. Never have greater varieties been offered. Never have prices been so low. I will do better by you in quality and price than anyone else

Silver Thimbles, 20c. Silver Rings, 25c. to \$1.25. Gen's Initial Rings; Solid Gold Rings, 50c. to \$50.00. 4 or 5 Gross Steel Spectacles and Eye Glasses. 1 Gross Fine Frameless Spectacles selling at one-half regular price. If you are asking where you can buy best and cheapest this season, you can get your answer by calling on

Thursday, Jan. 3, 1895.

HOME AND ABROAD.

LIFE.

—Ah, brief is life.
—Love's short, sweet way,
With dreamings rife,
And then—good day.
—And life is vain—
—Hope's vague delight,
Grief's transient pain,
And then—good night.
—The Independent.
—While the bells are jingling,
—While ice on river and creek is forming fast,
—The wise man
—Who predicted an open winter
—Is looking for an opportunity
—To take a sleigh ride!
—Let everybody hope he'll get it.
—The smaller ice houses are being filled with ice of ample thickness.
—But it may be set down as a fact that there won't be enough ice stored this winter
—To cool next summer off!

—Out of the forty-five mentioned survivors of the war of 1812 there are fifteen who are more than 100 years old.
—Owing in part to the expiration of patents the prices of skates have been very much decreased.
—A Kansas wedding was recently celebrated in which twenty-four bridesmaids assisted. And the groom did not even attempt to take to the woods.

—A western poultryman says that there is nothing that will bring eggs like steamed cut hay and granulated fresh bone.
—Read the new advertisement of the Grand Depot, Roystersford.
—Some of the local political fences are considerably out of line. Perhaps William the Faithful can straighten them up again.

—Any old, blind, knee-sprung, spavined horse can be marketed in New York now. They are going to have butcher shops specially for horse meat.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.
—Have you thanked your Aunt Jane for your nice new jack-knife yet, Johnny? "No'm; I'm waiting to see if the blades is good steel."

—If the faithful young wooer fails to take his best girl out sleighing these days it will be because he can't get a horse and sleigh. Exactly.
—The rumor that a Republican politician had been discovered in Ohio who admits that he is not a candidate for Governor has been confirmed. He is running for Lieutenant Governor.—Chicago Dispatch.

—Mrs. Barbara Tyson, wife of James Tyson, of Skippack township, died on Tuesday of last week of a heart affection, aged 49 years. A sister, Mrs. William Saylor, lives in Norristown.
—Henry W. Nagle, of Upper Pottsgrove township, has made an assignment of all his real and personal property for the benefit of creditors.

—The window-glass manufacturing firm of G. S. Bennett & Co., of Spring City, will organize the concern as a corporation, to be known as the Bennett Glass Company, with a capital stock of \$250,000.
—"Hello, Hodge! What's the black band on your hat for?" "My wife's first husband." "Your wife's first husband?" "Yes, I'm sorry he's dead."—Buffalo Express.

—Henry K. Keyser, A. J. Kentner and Franklin T. Beer, the County Auditors have commenced their annual task of verifying the accounts submitted by various officials. The work will occupy nearly a month.
—The order of court granting the opening of the new road from Buckwalter's corner to the road leading from Trappe to Ironbridge was placed in the hands of Supervisor Starr yesterday.

—Michael F. Fryer and wife celebrated the 54th anniversary of their wedding on Sunday at their home in Pottstown. Twenty-one of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present.
—Ladies' Aid.
The Ladies' Aid Society of Trinity church, this place, will hold its first monthly meeting in the New Year, on next Monday evening at the residence of Squire Abram D. Fetterolf. A good attendance upon the part of the members generally is greatly desired.

—A Trip on Skates.
A day or two ago Milton Landis, Frank Zimmerman and Albert Bowers of Yerkes Station, skated from that place down the Perkiomen to the Schuylkill and up that stream as far as Black Rock dam. The young men returned home the same way.
—A Chicken Dinner for the Poor.
The inmates of the Almshouse observed their Christmas by eating seventy-five chickens and guinea fowls which were slaughtered for the occasion and served up in addition to other delicacies of the season. Besides this feast, which all thoroughly enjoyed, each man, woman and child received a bag of candy and two oranges. In the evening an entertainment was held amongst themselves, consisting of singing, dancing, etc., a large portion of the large dining room being curtained off for the affair.

—How's This?
We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure.
J. C. HENRY & CO., Props., Toledo, O.
We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by him.
West & Trux, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
Walling, Kimball & Marvin, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the system and on the surfaces of the system. Price 75 cents per bottle.
Sold by J. W. Galt, Druggist, Collegeville, Pa., to cents.

Y. W. C. T. U.

The Y. W. C. T. U. of Yerkes will meet at the residence of Mr. John Reiff on Monday evening January 7. All are welcome.

Farm Sold.

The farm of Jacob Keeley, near Black Rock, this township, was sold at public sale Wednesday of last week to G. F. Hunsicker, of Philadelphia, Mr. Keeley's son-in-law, for \$6,500. The farm contains 173 acres.

Damages Paid.

President Francis M. Brooke, of the Valley Forge Park Commission, was in Norristown, Monday, and paid out over \$20,000 to the attorneys of the property owners who were awarded damages by the jury for land taken.

Lost 100 Hogs.

Albanus Dewees, residing in Norristown, near Norristown, has suffered the loss of about 100 hogs, due to a mysterious disease. Dewees gathers slop in Norristown. It is supposed the disease originated from some poisonous offal in the slop.

Philadelphia Markets.

Winter bran, \$15.50 @ \$16.25; flour, \$2.50 to \$3.75; rye flour, \$2.75; wheat, 59 to 61½c; corn, 48c; oats, 38½c; butter, 20 to 21c; five fowls, 7½ @ 8c; dressed fowls, 8½ @ 9c; timothy hay 65c to 75c; mixed, 55c. @ 65c; straw, 55 @ 60c; beef cattle, 3 to 5½c; sheep, 2½ to 4c; lambs, 3c to 4½c; hogs, western, 6½ to 6½c.

No Doubt About Winter Being Here.

The old year 1894 witnessed the opening of winter in earnest ere it was ushered out by young 1895. Snow began falling Wednesday afternoon of last week and continued during the following night. The fall of snow was succeeded by almost zero weather. Since then sleigh bells have been jingling and winter is in the air everywhere.

Seventy-Six Inquests in 1894.

Coroner Kurtz, his deputies and justices of the peace have held inquests in the cases of seventy-six persons in Montgomery county during the past year. Of these thirteen died on the railroads, six died from apoplexy, two from hemorrhage, fifteen with heart disease, five from convulsions, twelve were drowned, one murdered, one smothered to death, two killed in an explosion, one struck by a horse cart, four died of falls, one was killed by lightning, eight committed suicide, one accidentally shot and one was killed by a horse.

Public School Examinations.

Last Saturday Superintendent R. F. Hoffer held the first examination of the Lower Providence and Trappe Independent District schools. The examination was held at the Cherry Tree school. There are twelve in the class. On Friday preceding, the first examination of the graduating class of the Perkiomen schools was held at Schwenksville, with four candidates for diplomas. On the 10th of this month the coming Norristown graduates will be examined at Jeffersonville.

An Extensive Mortgage.

A mortgage of \$2,000,000 was placed on record at Norristown, Thursday afternoon by C. Henry Stinson Esq. The mortgage is the Philadelphia, Germantown and Chestnut Hill Railroad Company, and the obligation is intended to secure bonds to the amount of the mortgage. The trustee for the bondholders is Samuel Rea, of Bryn Mawr. Of the \$2,000,000 realized by the sale of the bonds \$1,000,000 is to be used in the retirement of bonds to that amount now outstanding.

Almshouse Affairs.

The Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Almshouse met Thursday and held their regular monthly meeting. The following was the report: Number of inmates in almshouse, 183; male, 155; female, 28. Number of inmates admitted since last month, 24; number of inmates died since last report, 1; number of inmates discharged, 7; number of children placed out since last report, 2; number of inmates in the Almshouse at present, 197; males, 168; females, 29. Tramps assisted, 6. Stock on farm, 8 horses, 47 cows, 2 bulls, 48 sheep and 17 hogs. Number of quarters of cream sold during the month 72; number of pounds of butter made during month 587; 454 solid and 133 pounds consumed. Eggs gathered during the month 30 dozens, 3 dozens sold and 27 dozens consumed. Orders were granted during the month amounting to \$2849.19.

RELIGIOUS.

M. E. church, Evansburg. Sabbath school at 9.30 a. m., every Sabbath. Preaching, 10.45 a. m., and every Sabbath evening at 7.30.
Episcopal service at St. James' Evansburg every Sunday at 10.30 a. m., Sunday School, 2 p. m. Also a service at Roystersford at 3.15 p. m. Rev. A. J. Barrow, Rector.
Divine service during the Fall, Winter and Spring at St. Paul's Memorial, near Oaks, at 10.30 in the morning; in the afternoon at 3.30. All welcome. Benjamin J. Douglas, rector.
Preaching next Sunday morning at St. Luke's, Trappe, by Dr. Super at 10.30. C. E. prayer meeting at 6.30 p. m. Preaching in the evening at 6.50. The evening service will open a series of Evangelistic meetings which will be held every evening for two weeks, Saturday nights excepted. The following is a partial list of the ministers who will preach at these services. Revs. J. B. Henery, O. R. Broadhead, E. C. Hoon, J. F. Sheppard, John H. Sechler, D. D. Jones, Nicholas, James I. Good, D. D. Jones singing. Come and bring your friends. Catechetical lectures will begin Saturday, Jan 12, at 2.30 p. m.
The religious service of Augustus Lutheran church, Trappe, on Sunday, will be conducted by Mr. Henry Richards, of the Mt. Airy Theological Seminary, at 10 a. m.
Trinity Church: Wednesday evening, at 7½ o'clock, the congregational prayer meeting. Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, catechetical. Sunday, at 10 a. m., preaching; at 6½ p. m., C. E. prayer meeting, leader, Miss Anna Bechtel, and at 7½ p. m., preaching.

United Evangelical Churches—Limerick, 10 a. m.; Trappe, 2.30 p. m.; Schwenksville, 7.30 p. m.

The Roberts' Steam Heater.

M. O. Roberts has received the contract to place one of his steam heaters in the new office of the American Road Machine Company at Kennet, Chester county, Pa. Score another for the Roberts heater—none better, if as good in the market.

Stockholders to pay the Tax.

The directors of the Norristown Title, Trust and Safe Deposit Company Saturday morning decided to pay the income tax due the government out of the undivided profits of the corporation, and to deduct the same from the dividends of the stockholders.

A Liberal Contribution to Home Missions.

F. G. Hobson, Esq., of this place, sent last week a Christmas offering in the form of his personal check for \$100 to the Rev. A. C. Whitmer, Lancaster, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Eastern Synod of the Reformed church.

A Rapid Development of Pork.

B. F. Linsinbiger, of near Roystersford, last week slaughtered a five-month-old porker that weighed 260 pounds. That pig must have eaten much, grown rapidly, and made pork very fast. Mr. Linsinbiger says he purchased the animal of Frank Rambo, of Limerick.

Frozen to Death.

The dead body of Sarah Wise, an unmarried woman, who lived alone about three miles north of Pottstown, was found frozen stiff in her house Thursday night of last week. There was no fire in the house and some coffee standing in a pot on the stove was frozen solid.

Farmers' Institutes.

The following dates are announced officially from Harrisburg for the Farmers' Institutes to be held in Montgomery county: Sanatoga, Friday and Saturday, January 4 and 5. Harboro, Wednesday and Thursday, January 9 and 10. Norristown, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 12 and 13. Mr. Jason Sexton, of Springhouse, the member of the State Board of Agriculture from this county, has charge of the arrangements.

An Extension Anticipated.

In a recent issue the Norristown Herald sets forth a number of reasons why an extension to the court house will be a pressing necessity in the near future. Some of the offices are at present crowded for the want of room, owing to the accumulation of public documents, and the present arrangement of holding court upstairs is referred to as being inconvenient. Ten years ago a suggestion that the court house would need enlargement before the next century would have been smiled at.

Draft of a Proposed City.

Mr. I. P. Rhoades, surveyor of Trappe, has executed an elaborate draft of the proposed new city at Oaks Station. The plot at present covers about 150 acres, divided into lots 50 by 150 feet, fronting on 80 and 60 foot streets. The draft shows careful and efficient work on the part of Mr. Rhoades. Whether the city to be will materialize remains a question for the future to decide. We are informed that the prospects are bright. That a number of prominent railroad officials and capitalists are taking an interest in the enterprise, and that Mr. Pfauts, of 113 North 12th street, Philadelphia, has a syndicate well under way.

A Long Distance Runaway.

Monday night of last week Harry Brunner, of Trappe, was on his way to James Beas' at Mingo, near John Wanner's place, when the driver of the horse started to run, going first to Mr. Beas' place and then to Detwiler's hotel, Roystersford, and from thence out Walnut street where several people caught the animal but were unable to hold him. At this place the driver, who had remained in the vehicle, jumped out and the horse ran on as far as Josiah Fisher's place, near Schwenksville, a distance, altogether, of about twelve miles, where the wagon was completely demolished. Here the horse was caught. Neither the driver nor the horse were injured. It was strange indeed that no collisions resulted as a consequence of the runaway. That horse is entitled to a record as a long distance runner.

When He's On His Back.

A country newspaper editor—or any sort of an editor—can't locomote himself about the country and collect bills or try to collect bills; keep track of what is going on publicly—and not so publicly—about town; attend a wedding or a wake, a surprise party, a trolley meeting, or a flag raising; he can't go sleighing or skating, or help chase a mad dog, he can't carry the copy book, stick type, impose forms, help the office trowel to stand up, shovel coal and ashes, hand exchanges to tramps, and get a tongue-lashing or a caning in his sanctum sanctorum; he can't go see some of his best friends and exchange opinions about the weather or about the latest excitement exciting some people; there are many things he can't do when he is on his back suffering from bodily tortures, but he can somehow or other edit a newspaper if he tries hard enough, and that's what the scribe had to do last week and this week. If you think we had a happy time of it we must venture to suggest that you are mistaken; only that and nothing more.

He Broke Through the Ice and Drowned.

Frank DeHaven, aged 17 years, a son of George W. DeHaven, of Norristown, was drowned in the Schuylkill Monday afternoon at Valley Forge. DeHaven, accompanied by his brother and two other boys, was skating and, leaving his companions, started for another part of the river, over an untried sheet of ice, which broke under his weight. The cracking of the ice attracted the attention of his companions, who hastened from the shore with a log of wood, which they rolled into the water where the boy was struggling. Frank grasped the log and was told to keep himself above water until his companions could procure a rope. There seemed to be no imminent danger of his sinking, but by the time they returned he had disappeared under the ice, having probably become exhausted. Intelligence of the affair soon spread, and the scene was soon visited by hundreds of people. At last accounts the body had not been recovered.

For the Independent.

Border Land.
Upon the rocky shore we stand,
Just on the edge of Borderland;
We gaze across the rolling tide,
But cannot see the other side.
Departing ships unfurl their sail,
Some onward by the gentle gale;
But whence they go and where they land
Poor mortals cannot understand;
Returning sail of gleaming white
Has never gladdened mortal sight;
The hidden Port was never found
To which departing ships are bound;
And as upon the shore we stand—
Just on the edge of Borderland—
And weary with the cares of life,
Its bitterness, its toll and strife,
We gladly step on board the bark,
Which seems to us a friendly ark;
Gently there we sink to rest,
With dreamless sleep our eyes are blest;
Then borne on by its gentle gale,
Which slowly fills the whitened sail,
We trust to Nature who will guide
Us safely over the rolling tide;
To us is this assurance given—
Where Nature lands us, that is Heaven.
IRON GRAY.

For The Orphans Home.

The Trinity Sunday school of Trinity Reformed church, of this village, at its Christmas Service on Sunday evening, the 23d inst., lifted a collection of \$45 for Bethany Orphans' Home, at Womelsdorf, Pa.

An Opinion from Berks County Farmers.

The Berks County Farmers Institute has adopted a resolution in which they regard the dehorning of cattle as a step in the right direction, believing that, instead of being a cruel practice, it is in the interest of humanity.

An Error.

In the article "Historic Ground" in the Literary Social on the first page of the INDEPENDENT there appears a typographical error. In speaking of Washington marching to winter quarters the date 1877 has been given instead of 1777.

Social.

Miss Agnes Hunsicker entertained a number of her friends, last Friday evening, at her home on Broadway. The evening was pleasantly spent in various amusements. A supper was served, after which the young ladies and gentlemen bade their hosts good night.

Last Saturday evening, Mr. Abram Allebach convinced about a dozen of the young ladies and gentlemen of this place and vicinity, that sleighing, just then, was of the first order, by taking them for a ride. The young folks went to Fairview and report a pleasant trip.

Brutally Assaulted.

Mrs. Sarah F. Custer, a widow, aged 65 years, who resides at 625 Astor street, Norristown, was waylaid and assaulted on Chain street between Main and Airy streets, Wednesday night of last week about 10 o'clock. She was on her way home, during a blinding snow storm, from the Salvation Army meeting, and was accompanied a part of the way by Mrs. Haas.

Two women separated at a corner near the latter's home, and Mrs. Custer started off in the direction of her residence, a few squares away. She had gone less than two hundred yards when she was roughly grabbed by a white man and dragged into an alley, where she was left lying in the snow after the assault. After a few minutes she arose to her feet and staggered to a near-by house, where she sank exhausted on a rear porch, suffering from the shock, due to fright. A half-hour later she was discovered in an almost insensible condition and taken indoors. Her condition was such that she could not be removed to her home until the next day. Her unknown assailant escaped.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Gross and Miss Lillie E. Gross will leave for their Florida home on Saturday.

The Misses Florence Box and Bella Griffiths, of Philadelphia, and Minnie Griffiths, of Huntingdon, who were the guests of Mrs. J. R. Challen and Miss Mattie Landis, at the Landis farm, on the other side of Perkiomen bridge, have returned to their homes.

Miss Grace Gristock went along back to the city, for a short visit, with her sister, Miss Lizzie, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Harriet Gristock, this place.

Mayne R. Longstreth Esq., of Philadelphia, wished his friends about town a Happy New Year.

Clem Fetterolf and Frank Johnson spent their Christmas vacation in Collegeville, and have again returned to School.

Howard Faringer is still enjoying his vacation about town.

Miss Ida Hallman, of Norristown, visited friends here last week.

Miss Deborah Koons is visiting friends in Easton.

REFORMED CHURCH MONTH.

THE AMOUNT RECEIVED FROM THE CHURCHES DURING NOVEMBER 1894.

The month of November was Reformed Church month. The following amounts of money and supplies were received by the Ladies' Auxiliary of Charity Hospital:

Roystersford—Mrs. M. A. Davis, Chairman; cash received, \$7.60.
Trappe—Mrs. Samuel Pugh, Chairman; cash \$24.55; supplies, \$6.25.
Collegeville—Mrs. Wm. P. Fenton, Chairman; cash \$61.40; supplies, \$1.60.
Lansdale—Mrs. A. R. Place, Chairman; cash \$6.50; supplies, \$5.98.
Norristown—Church of the Ascension, Miss Alice Stahlnecker, Chairman; cash, \$63.05; supplies, \$1.50.
Blue Bell—Bosham's Church, Mrs. E. G. Rosstier, Chairman; cash, \$18.75; supplies, \$2.68.
Limerick—Mrs. Wm. Mosteller, Chairman; cash, \$15.
Whitmarsh—Mrs. Theo. Schriver, Chairman; \$24.60.
The total amount received was \$211.45.

All the Baptist churches have reported and the amount received was \$223.43.

RUDY'S PILE SUPPOSITORY is guaranteed to cure Piles and Constipation, or money refunded. 25 cents per box. Send stamp for Circular and Free Sample to MARTIN RUDY, Lancaster, Pa. For sale by all first class druggists, and in Collegeville, Pa., by Joe W. Culbert.

A Living Picture.

One of the prettiest pictures, for which the snowy landscape forms a background, is to see Mr. James Paist's little golden-haired daughter, Carrie, riding along on her sled, which is pulled by their shaggy-coated Don. The dog gallops along wagging his tail and looking as though he enjoys the sport as thoroughly as the children do.

FLAG RAISING.

A GALA TIME AT EVANSBURG.

Tuesday was an important day at Evansburg. The Junior Order of United American Mechanics presented to the schools of Lower Providence a large American Flag. The event was attended with appropriate and very interesting ceremonies. Following was the program: Prayer, Rev. A. J. Barrow; Address, Hon. Henry K. Boyer; Singing by the schools, National Hymn; Address (Presentation), Mr. H. J. Deily; Singing by the schools, Star Spangled Banner; Address (Acceptation), James B. Holland, Esq.; Recitation, Two Flags, Annie Hunsicker; Recitation, Presidents of the United States, Annie Hiser; Recitation, The Old Thirteen, Ida Thompson; Recitation, Uncle Sam, Frank Polye; Recitation, Old Ironsides, Emma Shupe; Recitation, Bay Billie, Miss Alice Wismer; Singing by the schools, Our Flag is True; Address, Mr. Daniel Anders; Benediction, Rev. A. J. Barrow.

After the program was rendered the flag, in the folds of which were contained numerous small flags, was raised into place and unfurled by the president of the meeting, Dr. M. Y. Weber. As the small flags fell to the ground, the Eagleville Cornet Band played to the tune of "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue," and was raved only by the applause of the multitude. The occasion was ended by a parade through the town.

FROM IRONBRIDGE.

Iron Bridge Castle No. 104, K. G. E., has elected the following officers: N. C., J. B. Cook; V. C., R. S. Smith; Y. H., J. H. Willauer; H. P., John Clem; M. of R., F. F. Saylor; C. of E., M. K. Hunsicker; K. of E., H. T. Hunsicker; S. H., Wm. Underkoffler; Representative to Grand Castle, P. C., H. T. Hunsicker; Trustee, R. S. Smith.

The new flag can daily be seen floating in the breeze from the top of the tall pole at the school house.

W. J. Thompson and Enos Detwiler have their ice houses filled with ice eight inches thick.

Mrs. B. M. Johnson is slowly recovering from her recent sickness.

Sunday school closed for the season last Sunday.

C. E. Society still meets Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock.

FROM LIMERICK.

Lloyd Pontius, of Girard College, and his brother Pierce, of Roystersford, spent Tuesday in Limerick.

Misses Lillian H. and Lizzie M. Johnson spent part of last week in Philadelphia.

Rev. E. C. Hibbsman and Wm. B. Johnson spent Thursday in Philadelphia at the Academy of Fine Arts.

After being closed for three weeks, on account of diphtheria, the schools of Spring City reopened on Monday last.

A Literary Society has been organized at Linfield with John Evans as president. The attendance has been very large. Debates, recitations, readings etc. form the program.

The livermen are reaping a harvest since the snow-fall. All are anxious for sleighing, and embrace the first opportunity of the season. Dr. C. J. Brower and the Misses Brower of Spring City drove to Limerick on Friday last.

Mrs. E. L. Hallman, of Roystersford, has gone to visit her parents in New Hampshire; also for the benefit of her health.

The Y. P. S. L. Society will meet on Thursday evening, January 10. The program will be announced next week.

Mr. Evan B. Lewis, of the Philadelphia bar, spent Christmas with his sister, Mrs. Reuben Winter, Jr., Roystersford.

FROM OAKS.

The last week of the old year treated us to weather of the severest kind. The thermometer ranged anywhere at the zero point, and winds pierced every nook and corner with an icy chill. Ice formed on the canal and the river was frozen over. The snow and rain together on Wednesday night and Thursday formed a thick crust on the snow, and it was not an uncommon sight to see the boys skimming over the cornfields and pastures on skates. There was no danger of drowning. Some more venturesome skated on the canal. The merry jingle of the sleigh bells proved the fact that the sleighers were making good use of the time.

Fred. Miller is filling his ice house and Robert Young is filling Dr. Gumbel's. The ice on the canal at Brower's basin is six inches thick.

The Brick Works shut down for Christmas day. A foot ball match was talked of, but our home team has gone into winter quarters and there was no game, much to the disappointment of many of our sporting ones.

Jay Francis has arrived home from Illinois.

Roast fowl was indulged in, and there were some complaints of foul stomachs, but that was owing to the sudden change in the atmosphere. Christmas comes but once a year, and we are like the old woman who often visited a friend near by, who remarked, "I am always glad to see Mrs. R.'s toes and I am glad to see her heels." We are glad to see it come, and glad to see it go.

The major portion of Sunday morning was occupied in putting a Penny engine on the track, which ran off at the switch at the Enamel Brick Works siding.

Frank Mollard's brand new son came too late for a Christmas present, but will do for a New Year's gift. A Happy New Year to ye.

The St. Paul's Memorial Sunday School contributed books and gifts to their scholars on Saturday last. A Christmas tree beautifully trimmed was one of the attractions.

There was no school the last day of the old year or the first day of the new year at Green Tree, and the boys and girls enjoyed themselves sledding and skating.

Charley Shearer was in town on Monday. There is some talk of his running the coal and feed business at the stand occupied by Frank Rees. He has rented the farm in Chester county to Aaron Overdorf for another year.

A series of revival meetings began at Green Tree on Saturday night last. The Rev. Mr. Swigart, from Huntingdon, will be present and will speak at the meetings.

Joe Radcliff has taken several bottles of Hall's Catarrh Remedy, and as it has not cured him, would like to have that hundred dollars offered for a case this remedy would not cure.

Harry Cressman had quite an adventure with an old sow at Longacker's the other day, as he is in the pig business and was selecting one (as the fellow once said, "I know what a hog is, I was raised among them") he picked up a pig and it began to squeal in a lively manner, which brought the old sow to the rescue. It made a dash at Henry and in a lively manner hustled him out of the yard in a hurry, getting through the door with the sow at his heels. He dropped the pig, though, and now some people exclaim: "Who drapped that 'ere pig?"

A Novel Sight.

A novel sight was a flock or drove of 700 turkeys, which were driven from Lansdale to H. H. Schlichter's Hotel, at Limerick Centre, a few days ago, by Thomas Johnson, of Indiana, and sold by him there. To keep them from flying all over the county, large quantities of corn were fed them on being taken from the cars, so that it was not hard to keep them in a compact drove or flock. The sale was well attended, and it took less than an hour to dispose of the entire batch at an average price of ten cents per pound. The two biggest gobblers weighed together 65 pounds.

Wanted to Advertise.

From the Gaulois.
Abraham, the wine merchant, called at the advertising office of a leading paper and inquired if the big advertisement of Traubel, the liquor merchant, which that day figured in the columns of said paper, was going to appear again.

"Oh, yes!" unthinkingly replied the clerk. "It has to be kept in for a month."

"In that case," said Abraham, "will you please insert immediately below it the following announcement: 'Abraham Isaac Jacob, wine and liquor merchant, supplies all the above wines named

RAILROADS.	
PERKIOMEN RAILROAD.	
Passenger trains leave Collegeville Station as follows:	
FOR PHILADELPHIA AND POINTS SOUTH.	
Milk.....	6:49 a. m.
Accommodation.....	8:00 a. m.
Market.....	12:42 p. m.
Accommodation.....	3:57 p. m.
FOR ALLENTOWN AND POINTS NORTH AND WEST.	
Milk.....	8:00 a. m.
Accommodation.....	9:06 a. m.
Market.....	3:50 p. m.
Accommodation.....	5:40 p. m.
SUNDAYS—SOUTH.	
Milk.....	7:13 a. m.
Accommodation.....	8:13 p. m.
NORTH.	
Accommodation.....	8:55 a. m.
Milk.....	7:27 p. m.

LEOPOLD'S

POTTSTOWN, PA.

We are closing out, regardless of cost, our entire stock of **DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, TRIMMINGS, CLOAKS, CAPES, HOSIERY, GLOVES, Etc., Etc.**

In order that we may devote our entire attention to our Suit and Clothing Making Department to which there is a constant accession of new customers from all parts of the U. S.

Now we want to distribute some \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of goods among the people during the coming few weeks, and to make this **Closing Out Sale** draw the masses, we are marking down the price of every article in our large stock, no matter whether the newest and most desirable goods or the oldest stock, which will go at half or quarter the cost.

Even our **New Coats, Capes and Fur Garments**, bought just before we decided to sell out, will be sold at such **LOW PRICES** as to place them **below all competition**. We name a few of the thousands of items reduced:

Fine Black Dress Goods reduced from \$1.25 to 87 1/2 cents.

Colored Dress Goods reduced from \$1.25 to 62 1/2 cents.

Dress Goods that were 12 1/2 cents reduced to 5 and 6 cents.

Coats that were \$2.75 reduced to \$1.00.

Coats that were \$5.00 reduced to \$2.00.

Coats that were \$10.00 reduced to \$4.95.

Capes that were \$4.50 reduced to \$2.95.

Capes that were \$13.50 reduced to \$8.75.

Capes that were \$7.75 reduced to \$4.62.

Ladies' Suits that were \$9.00 reduced to \$5.62.

Ladies' Suits that were \$10.00 reduced to \$6.75.

Everything reduced below its value to make this stock go out quickly.

LEOPOLD,

254 HIGH ST.,
POTTSTOWN, PA.

The INDEPENDENT aims to deserve the confidence of its readers by dealing with them frankly.

It does not advocate public measures from mere considerations of policy or expediency, but from convictions as to what it believes to be right and for the greatest good of the greatest number of people.

It does not say one thing and believe something else.

The INDEPENDENT is radically opposed to that kind of sensational journalism which cultivates, and panders to, depraved tastes, for the purpose of making dollars.

The INDEPENDENT wants to make dollars, but not in that way.

It believes that right doing exalts a nation and that wrong doing is the seed of individual and national destruction. The INDEPENDENT aims to be on the side of right and justice.

If you are not a subscriber, and if you have use for such a paper, subscribe for the INDEPENDENT.

Special attention always given to news items of a local character.

Subscribe for the INDEPENDENT.

The INDEPENDENT is one of the very best advertising mediums in Montgomery county. For proof of this come and examine our subscription book.

The INDEPENDENT Office is fully equipped to do all kinds of Job Work neatly, promptly, and at fair prices.

A SMASH-UP —IN— PRICES —FOR— Furniture, Carpets, Etc. —AT THE— COLLEGEVILLE Furniture & Warehouses!

We are daily receiving and putting in position our new Spring Stock. By March 1st we will be prepared to show the

Finest Selection of Household Goods Ever Offered at Prices that will Astonish You.

Fancy Antique Sideboards, \$6.00 to \$30.00. Guaranteed Genuine Wilton Rug Parlor Suits, \$35.00 to \$55.00. Antique Oak Bedroom Suits, \$35.00 to \$55.00. Full line of Hair-Cloth, Plush and Brocade Suits at correspondingly low prices. A full line of Reed and Fancy Rockers, Lounges and Couches. The most complete line of Brussels and Ingrain Carpets ever on our floors. Also, an elegant line of Stair and Rag Carpets. Moquette, Axminster and Smyrna Rugs, all sizes; Bed Springs, Mattresses, Feathers and Bedding.

In addition to our low prices we give 5 per cent. off for cash.

Repairing of all kinds done. Goods delivered free.

John L. Bechtel,
COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

SCHISLER COLLEGES OF BUSINESS,
NORRISTOWN and Philadelphia, Pa.
Seventh Collegiate Year Commencement Monday, August 27, 1894.
PUPILS ADMITTED AT ANY TIME
Practical courses of study.
Successful methods of instruction.
Thoroughly experienced teachers.
The remarkable record of placing a greater percentage of pupils in lucrative positions than all its competitors.
A. J. SCHISLER, President.

Peirce School

The Representative Business School of America for Both Sexes.

Second, Third and Fourth Floors of THE RECORD BUILDING, 917-919 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

Thirty Years Under One Management.
Principal and Founder,
Thomas May Peirce, A. M., Ph. D.

DAY AND EVENING SESSIONS.
This is a High Grade School which employs a good English education with a systematic business training. Its President Harrison says of it: "It has an eminently practical curriculum."

A complete all-round equipment for business life. Bookkeeping, Shortland, Correspondence, Customs, Commercial Law, Banking, etc.

Graduates are Successfully Assisted to Positions.

Peirce School is headquarters for the Mercantile Community and is called upon when young men and women are needed for counting room or office.

The Fall and Winter Term will begin on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1894.

Business examinations held daily throughout the year. Enrollment blanks on application. Call or send for descriptive printed matter concerning the School.

COLLEGEVILLE ROLLER MILLS!

FOR SALE AT WHOLESALE PRICES

WHEAT BRAN

Our Own Make and Western. Excellent Grade.

WHEAT MIDDINGS

—AND—
RYE FEED!

OUR OWN MAKE.

CORN BRAN.

A Full Stock of all Other Kinds of Feed.

Highest Cash Prices Paid for Wheat at all Times.

PAIST BROS.,

COLLEGEVILLE, PENNA.

Gristock & Vanderslice,
Collegeville, Pa.,
DEALERS IN
White and Yellow Pine, and Hemlock
LUMBER,
Various grades, dressed and undressed.
SHINGLES, split and saved.
PICKETS, CEDAR AND CHESTNUT
RAILS.
Lehigh and Schuylkill

COAL - - COAL.

FLOUR, Corn, Bran, Middlings, OATS, LINED MEAL, AND CAKE MEAL.

Shoemaker's Phosphate, and others. Harrison's Town and Country Paint, second to none in the market. Also Harrison's Rough and Ready Paint—a cheap durable paint for barns and fencing.

Department of Agriculture.

THE USE OF LIME AS A FERTILIZER.

Many persons in whose good judgment and sense every one has confidence, insist that lime is not a plant food, and is, therefore, useless as a fertilizer. Now a plant food is considered to be anything that, being contained in plants to a large extent, may be applied to the soil, to contribute to the supply of it for the crops. When we see that when such an element of plant substance is applied to the soil the following crop is greatly helped, we can hardly agree with the opinion that it is not a food for plants.

If we study the composition of plants, we find that lime is the most important part of the mineral elements of nearly every one. The ash of a plant is made up of these mineral elements, and, by examining the ash, we may discover what kinds and quantities of mineral matters the plants require. And it is to be remembered that in the growth of plants every element found in them is indispensable. But how much more must it be so—if a thing were possible, for one element to be more indispensable than another—for lime, which exists in such a large proportion, to be anything but indispensable?

And this must be thought so as we consider that in the ash of hay one-eighth part is lime; in the ash of clover more than a third of it is lime; in the ash of potato tops nearly one-half is lime. The ashes of wood, which we think so valuable on account of the potash in them, have several times more lime than potash, the lime amounting from thirty to seventy per cent. And there is not one plant grown that has not lime in its ashes. The same applies to potash and phosphoric acid, and, reasonably, these are supposed to be food for plants; why, then, is not lime a plant food? Surely it must be so considered.

The best farmed localities in the world are those where the soil contains a large proportion of lime, being derived from the decomposition of limestone rocks. But it is not so much on account of the lime in the soil that the land is so well farmed and so productive, but mostly for the reason that lime being there abundant and cheap, the farmers burn the limestone and make lime, and apply it to the land. Lime, only, is a plant food, but limestone is not, and the soil may be well filled with limestone and yet be quite poor. This is common experience. Now lime is a very active chemical substance. This will be seen if some of it is put in some vinegar. This will foam up and boil over the cup, and a large quantity of gas will be evolved. In the end there will be no more acid in the vinegar. And this is one effect of lime on soil that is sour, such as swamp land, in which the excess of acid prevents the growth of any useful plants.

If we put some lime on a dead animal, or on any other organic matter, it will quickly decompose it and reduce it to its original elements, and this is one effect of lime when used in a compost, the matters thus decomposed then becoming good manure and useful food for plants. And this same effect is produced in the soil when quicklime is applied, as it usually is in the fall when the land is prepared for wheat and grass and clover seedling. But the chemist may take some sand or other mineral matter and mix lime with it, and then add water, and the lime will dissolve quite a considerable quantity of this mineral matter, forming silicate of lime; and by taking the silica from the potash, or the phosphates, or magnesia, or the alumina, etc., that the soil is made up of, the lime renders these elements of plant food soluble and available for the crops.

Now this is a small part of the natural history of lime, as it is used in good farming. And with such a history we must realize its value to the farmer, quite independently of the fact whether it is actually a plant food or not. And as this is the season when the land is in the best condition for the application of lime, as lime is most soluble in cold water, and the wheat crop is most convenient for it, it is a question for all of us if it is not advisable to see to it, and gather the fruits of its good effects on the soil. The freshly burned lime only is used, and twenty to forty bushels per acre is the usual quantity. It is left in heaps in the field, preferably of one bushel each, two rods apart, and in a few days it falls to a fine powder by the action of the moisture of the air, or a shower of rain, when it is easily spread quite evenly—so as to just whiten the surface—with a long-handled shovel. But when lime is thus used for the wheat, it is not advisable to use superphosphate until the spring. It can then be used to advantage.—Henry Stewart in American Agriculturist.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CRIMSON CLOVER.

A promising forage plant for sandy soils is found in the crimson clover, *Trifolium incarnatum*, sometimes improperly termed scarlet clover. E. B. Voorhes, of the New Jersey station, reports that it will grow in any part of that State, being quite as hardy as the common red clover, and yielding better hay and very early pasture. Crimson clover is an annual, its best use being probably derived from seedling in the summer or fall for an early spring crop, either for pasture, forage, or green manure, as it withstands the winter. It is adapted for a

wide variety of conditions, both in reference to character of soil and method and time of seeding, though not as a substitute for red clover.

Spring seeding either alone or with oats, gives a summer crop. Fall seeding may extend from July to October in orchards, berry patches, corn, among vegetables, or upon raw ground following after potatoes, tomatoes, melons, or other crops harvested before September. The seed should be lightly covered, as even heavy rains bury it too deeply. Hot, dry weather after sprouting also injures the stand. It is not adapted for seeding with winter wheat or rye. An average of 12 pounds of seed is sown per acre, and it should be of the best American grown strains. Eight pounds may be used alone or in orchards, while as much as sixteen pounds may be needed when sown with other crops, which should then be well fertilized.

Crimson clover, in common with other farm crops, requires good soils for its best development, though it is well adapted to light lands, catching readily and flourishing where red clover will not thrive, and also making use of mineral constituents which are not available to the cereals. The average yield on different soils secured from a full stand the last week in May was 15 1/2 tons of green forage, which became 2 1/10 tons of dry hay. Much larger yields have been reported. As a green manure to secure available nitrogen, this plant possesses many advantages due to its time of growth. A crop six inches high on April 24th showed accumulation of nitrogen in the whole plant at the rate of 104 lbs. per acre, or as much as is contained in ten tons of stable manure, or in 648 pounds of nitrate of soda, which costs \$15.

The clover grown thus early might be utilized by plowing under to fertilize the soil for such early vegetables, potatoes, melons and other crops usually benefited by liberal applications of nitrogenous manures. On May 12th, a crop averaging 13 inches high contained nitrogen at the rate of 168 pounds per acre, worth \$25.50. The mature plant contained nitrogen at the rate of 200 pounds per acre, or as much as is found in 20 tons of stable manure, and thus worth \$30. The advantages derived from this crop when used solely as a green manure are but slightly reduced when the crop is fed to stock, and the resulting manure saved and returned to the field. The fertilizing value of the roots alone is equivalent in nitrogen compounds and other organic matter to three tons of stable manure.

In average seasons crimson clover provides a soiling crop excellent both in yield and quality of product, lasting about twenty days and at a time when other forage is not abundant. In the experiments nearly a ton and a half of digestible food were grown on an acre, which would thus provide sufficient food for ten cows in full flow of milk for twenty days, and be worth at least \$25. This clover yields good pasture before other crops are ready, being pastured before the middle of April. When six inches high an acre should nourish twelve cows for one week. The composition and digestibility of this plant make it superior to red clover, and in seasons favorable to early hay-making the product thus secured is not excelled by any other farm crop for all purposes. It is especially useful in the renovation of poor, sandy farms. Interest in this crop is so great, especially north of the 39th degree, where it has not yet been acclimated, that we invite the experience of farmers on this product.—American Agriculturist.

Practical irrigation by the use of windmills has been demonstrated in several States, and the subject is being discussed by scientists and Boards of Agriculture. The storage of water when it is plentiful, to be used when it is scarce, will solve the problem of droughts, and permit the farmer to control the moisture supply of his plants. When the danger of drought ceases to exist there will be more fertilizers used and larger crops grown.

Swill is readily eaten by swine, even when it is so fermented as to be sour, but hogs will keep in better condition on more wholesome food. Wheat, corn and oats, ground together, scalded, with clover hay, cut fine, the whole made into a somewhat sloppy mess, will be just as cheap as swill and far more wholesome. Hog cholera and other diseases may sometimes be traced to the filthy food which the hogs are compelled to eat, because they cannot procure anything better.

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